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Dear (party member name and position inserted),

Recently an online survey (<http://canada.isidewith.com/>) was brought to our attention. In this survey, all the political parties, including yours, responded to the following question in the affirmative:

“Should the federal government require children to be vaccinated for preventable diseases?”

While it is perhaps understandable that political parties would support such an action considering the current media blitz regarding the pharmaceutical industry and government regulatory agencies push for mandatory vaccination in the United States. In Canada, lawmakers must take a step back and consider the historical background and realize the legal implications of such a move here.

Under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms in the Canadian Constitution mandatory vaccination is illegal. This was acknowledged years ago by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) in their 1997 Report on Immunization as follows [emphasis ours]:

“Unlike some countries, immunization is not mandatory in Canada; it cannot be made mandatory because of the Canadian Constitution. Only three provinces have legislation or regulations under their health-protection acts to require proof of immunization for school entrance. Ontario and New Brunswick require proof for diphtheria, tetanus, polio, measles, mumps, and rubella immunization. In Manitoba, only measles vaccination is covered [Manitoba removed this in 2014]. It must be emphasized that, in these three provinces, exceptions are permitted on medical or religious grounds and reasons of conscience; **legislation and regulations must not be interpreted to imply compulsory immunization.**”

Source: Immunization in Canada – Volume: 23S4 – May 1997 — Canadian National Report on Immunization

This acknowledgement by PHAC was the result of citizen response to the 1982 Ontario *Immunization of School Pupils Act* that as originally drafted allowed only medical and religious exemptions to vaccinations. In 1984, the legislation was amended to include exemptions for personal belief. The citizen brief to the Minister of Health in Ontario, which led to the amendment, stated [emphasis ours]:

“The Committee Against Compulsory Vaccination consists mainly of parents in Ontario who object to at least one of the vaccinations now required by law. We also have many supporters among those who favour such procedures but who object to the government requiring citizens to give specific medications to their children against their will. We have emphasized our opposition to the compulsory nature of the legislation rather than to the vaccinations themselves and we will continue to do so. **For us the question of civil liberties is the most important aspect of this issue.** We have, nevertheless, done considerable research into the medical side of this question and we are very concerned about the many negative aspects of such a mass vaccination program. Thus, though our first purpose is to protect the rights of parents to decide such questions for themselves and for their children, we feel we have an additional responsibility to publicize the significant dangers and problems of these procedures to a public which has been woefully uninformed by both the government and the medical establishment.

Source: <http://vaccinechoiccanada.com/about/history-of-vran/>

Nothing has changed. Vaccines remain powerful biological drugs formulated with complex bioactive and chemical compounds which carry the risk of injury and death. As such, protecting parents’ constitutional right to make voluntary and informed vaccine decisions on behalf of their children is of paramount importance.

We have provided in this information package historical, legal and scientific information for you to consider. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have further questions or concerns on the issue of mandatory vaccinations and legal exemptions.

Regards,

Edda West, President of Vaccine Choice Canada on behalf of the Board of Directors